

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. Everyone should be truthful, the phone bill has so many hidden and unnecessary charges they should be outlawed. Not only are the charges outrageous, the consumer is not always sure what they are paying for. We pay for the service, operating costs are part of that, yes but not tacked on as if they are some type of government charge to the consumer when in reality they are a charge to the service provider. It's just wrong and needs to be rectified.

I also wonder why those with land lines must pay for cell users to take their number with them. First of all, it should be paid by the person keeping the number. Secondly, if they collect the money every month from every phone line they are making an astronomical amount on entering a few commands into a computer. I repeat - it's wrong and should be stopped.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.